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DE RUEHRO #0212 0570716
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3325
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHZJ/HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHAB/AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE 0001
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE 0810
RUEHAN/AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO IMMEDIATE 0011
RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE 1935
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE 1463
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK IMMEDIATE 0169
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE 0007
RUEHWN/AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE 0002
RUEHJB/AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE 0009
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 0940
RUEHCH/AMEMBASSY CHISINAU IMMEDIATE 0146
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV IMMEDIATE 0341
RUEHLC/AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE 0001
RUEHPC/AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE 0047
RUEHMB/AMEMBASSY MBABANE IMMEDIATE 0045
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE 0001
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 4633
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE 0002
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE 0015
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE 0001
RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY IMMEDIATE 0050
RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE 0070
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO IMMEDIATE 0066
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 0591
RUEHSQ/AMEMBASSY SKOPJE IMMEDIATE 0833
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI IMMEDIATE 0265
RUEHTG/AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE 0237
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE 1451
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 2065
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE 0770
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 0003
RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB IMMEDIATE 0811
RUEHLA/AMCONSUL BARCELONA IMMEDIATE 0022
RUEHFL/AMCONSUL FLORENCE IMMEDIATE 4069
RUEHMRE/AMCONSUL MARSEILLE IMMEDIATE 0279
RUEHMIL/AMCONSUL MILAN IMMEDIATE 0511
RUEHNP/AMCONSUL NAPLES IMMEDIATE 4298
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1075
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 0003
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE 4898

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SUBJECT: ITALY: GOLDSTONE FOLLOW-UP ACTION

REF: STATE 15722

Classified By: Political-Military Counselor J. Liam Wasley for reasons
1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (C) On February 25, Poloff discussed reftel points with Middle East Office Director Davide La Cecilia regarding the impending vote on the Palestinian-drafted UNGA resolution related to the Goldstone Report. While the Italian position is the same as before (Italy voted "no" on the October 16 HRC resolution and "no" on the November 5 UNGA resolution), he said "a major realignment is taking place" in Europe in a post-Lisbon effort to increase the EU's relevance. The Europeans, he said, are attempting to avoid a "triple split" (some no, yes, some abstain) and are working with the Palestinians to "soften" the text so that all Europeans might abstain. La Cecilia said he had no instructions at the moment, and that the final decision would ultimately be a

political one. As a red line, he said, "we will not accept abstention unless there is unanimity on abstention." He thought an across-the-board abstention would be very difficult to get, however, given that many states "see no reason not to vote yes," as they had done before. If efforts to bring all Europeans to abstain together fail, La Cecilia suggested the GOI would likely vote no.

12. (C) In the GOI view, La Cecilia said, the current resolution is already "softer," more procedural, and contains less offensive rhetoric than prior resolutions: it does not formally endorse the Goldstone report but rather recalls resolution 6410 of last November; it does not, according to him, refer the report to the UNSC, but only to the UN Secretary General. Nor does it propose a timeline for investigations, or refer to Operation Cast Lead.

THORNE